Wage bills of Air India

3240. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total wage bill of Air India for the year ending March, 1994;

(b) what is the amount overtime paid to employees during this period; and

(c) what is the amount of conveyance and breakfast|lunch and other allowances paid during this period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The total wage bill of Air India in 1993 was Rs. 305.08 crores. During this period, expenditure on overtime allowance was Rs. 14.17 crores, conveyance allowance Rs. 4.20 crores, and breakfast|lunch allowance Rs. 2.79 crores.

Upgradation of airports in Himachal Pradesh

3241. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourist traffic to Himachal Pradesh is constantly increasing;

(b) if so, whether Govt. are considering to upgrade the two airports of the State at Shimla and Bhutan;

(c) the number of airstrips at present in that State;

(d) whether Government have any plan to construct more airstrips for the facility of touristn and improve upon the present ones; and

(e) if so, main features of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There has been an increase in tourist traffic to Himachal Pradesh during 1994 though it recorded a decline during 1993.

(b) to (e) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has three airports at Kullu (Bhuntar), Gaggal (Kangra) and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. Due to difficult terain at Bhuntar, it has not been found feasible to upgrade this airfield. However, extension of runway to 4100 ft. and provision of 200 ft. overrun area is found feasible at Shimla. Airports Authority of India has no plans to construct new airstrips in Himachal Pradesh though the State Government has identified Banikhet and Rangrik—Khurik for possible new airports.

Plans to promote use of hindi language

3242. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have chalked out any plan to promote the use of Hindi language in its administraion and other wings;

(b) if so, the details therefor and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the various schemes formulated and being implemented by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Annual Plan/ Programme to promote the use of Hindi Language in the administration and other wings of all the Ministries/Departments/ Offices etc. of the Government of India including this Ministry, is formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) which is the nodal department for the purpose. This Ministry is following and implementing the same programme. The main items of the programme include increased use of Hindi in correspondence, telegrams, telex mssages etc., arrangement of devanagari/bilingual typewriters, accelerating the pace of training of staff in Hindi| Hindi Typing/Hindi Stenography, obligatory use of both Hindi and English for speified purposes, notifying eligible offices under Rule 10(4) of the Official Languages Rules, 1976, to allow use of Hindi